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I want you

STAN LEE
presentation

PIOTR NIKOLEMITSCH
RASPUTIN HAS WALKED
AN AWFUL LONG WAY.



HE IS TIRED,
FRUSTRATED,
SAD, LOST, IN
PAIN... AND
SMOKED.

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OUT IN THE SCOTS
CHILL, PETE WISDOM
IS FEELING NO PAIN.

A HEAD FULL OF WHISKEY AND
SEVERAL MEANINGFUL KISSES
WILL DO THAT TO HIM.

HE'S RESIGNED FROM HIS
DUBIOUS EMPLOYERS IN
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.

HE'S BEEN PRETTY
MUCH ACCEPTED
INTO EXCALIBUR.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A
GOOD FEW YEARS, HE'S
GENUINELY FEELING QUITE
PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

EVERYTHING'S
GONE QUIET.

HE'S JUST SOBER ENOUGH
TO REMEMBER THAT HE
HATES IT WHEN EVERY-
THING GOES QUIET.



DID YOU
HEAR SOME-
THING?



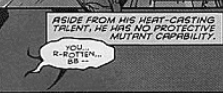
AM I SMASHED,
OR ARE YOU THE
TERMINATOR?

I AM PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH RASPUTIN
AND I HAVE TRAVELED HALFWAY
ACROSS THIS PLANET --

-- TO
FIND MYSELF,
TO FIND MY LIFE,
TO FIND MY
KATYA --

-- AND
AND, I CAN'T
TAKE ANYMORE, AND
YOU HAVE TAKEN MY
KATYA FROM
ME --





AND HE HAS NO
IDEA WHO THIS
RUSSIAN DEMON
IN STEEL IS.

PETE WISDOM KNOWS
ONLY THAT HE IS
BREAKING LIKE CHEAP
GLASS UNDER ITS FISTS.

ALL WE CAN DO IS
STARE DOWN THE
MASSIVE PAIN --

-- AND TRY TO END
THIS WITHOUT EITHER
OF THEM COMMITTING
MURDER.

PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH
FEELS THE SUN EXTEND
A BRIGHT HOT FINGER
AND LAY IT ACROSS
HIS EYES.

EYAAAAH!!

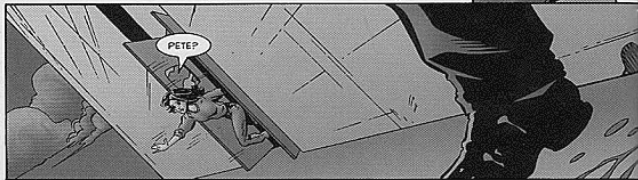


PETE.



WHAT?

IT'S
PETE -- HE'S
IN TROUBLE, I
JUST KNOW
IT.





NEIN,
PETER -- STOP
THIS!

PETE WISDOM
FEELS PART OF
HIS SKULL MOVE
INWARDS --



PETER,
HE IS ONE OF
OURS --



OUT
OF MY WAY,
KURT --



-- I AM
SORRY.



COLOSSUS?
PETER, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?



KATYA,
FINALLY, I
CAME BACK FOR
YOU, MY KATYA... I
HAVEN'T SLEPT
IN DAYS...

HAVE I BEEN
GONE SO LONG
THAT YOU COULD
FORGET ABOUT
ME?

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT I'VE
BEEN THROUGH
TO COME BACK
TO YOU, MY
KATYA?

I
AM GOING
TO PASS OUT... I
AM GOING TO
PASS OUT...

THROUGH THE RED FOG,
PETE WISDOM SEES THE STEEL
MONSTER THREATENING KITTY.

HE'S BARELY GOT
ENOUGH STRENGTH
TO KEEP HIS HEART
MOVING.

BUT HE CAN THINK OF
A BETTER USE FOR IT.

YOU --
LEAVE -- HER
ALONE!

AAAH EGH

OOHHNNN *



KITTY WAS
RIGHT.
BRIAN,
ISN'T THAT
COLOSSUS?

I THOUGHT
HE WAS STILL
WITH MAGNETO'S
ACOLYTES --

COLOSSUS --
THE X-MAN WHO
DEFECTED, YES?

HE'S
NO 'A BAD MAN,
DOUGIE --



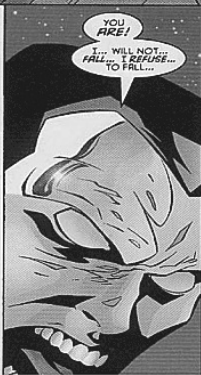
RAHHK... MY SPINE...
MY LEGS...

...ARE
YOU ALL...
AGAINST ME,
KATYA?



MEGGAN -- BRIAN --
WE ASK QUESTIONS
LATER!

TAKE
PETER
DOWN!



YOU
ARE!

I... WILL NOT...
FALL... I REFUSE...
TO FALL...



I'M SORRY,
COLOSSUS,
BUT YOU'RE
CONFUSED.

ON TWO,
SWEET?

TWO.

MEGGAN AND BRIAN
BRADDOCK ARE THE
TWO MOST PHYSICALLY
POWERFUL MEMBERS
OF EXCALIBUR.

BEING HIT BY ONE
OF THEM RESEMBLES
HAVING A LARGE
CHEST FREEZER
DROPPED ON YOUR
BRAIN.

BEING HIT BY
BOTH IS LIKE
BEING PUNCHED
IN THE FACE
BY GOD.



HE'S
OUT.

I
HATED
DOING
THAT.



LATER
FOR THAT,
MEGGAN --
I WANT THESE
TWO IN
MED LAB --
STAT!



TELEPORT
COLOSSUS OUT,
AMANDA!

AN' WHAT
ARE YOU STILL
DOIN' HERE,
KURT WAGNER?
GO!



I WAS
HAPPY.

MEDLAB, THE CENTERPIECE
OF THE MUIR ISLAND MEDICAL
RESEARCH STATION...

MUTANT SUBJECT RASPUTIN:
CURRENTLY COMPOSED OF
ANIMATED MINERAL ANALOGUE
DENOTED AS "ORGANIC STEEL"...

MASSIVE TRAUMA
TO LOWER SPINAL AREA.
NOTE THAT SPIRE IS
ALSO CONVERTED TO
ORGANIC STEEL IN
CHANGE-FORM.

MUTANT SUBJECT
WISDOM: HEAD
TRAUMA: BLOOD
PRESSURE RISING
IN CRANIUM.

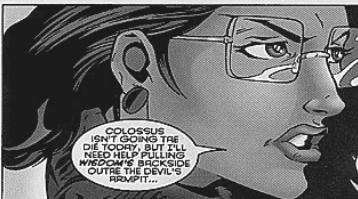
LEFT LUNG
UNDERPERFORMING.
FIVE RIBS
DAMAGED...

CAFFEINE-VITAMIN
COMBINATION
BOMB. BIG JOLTS
OF TRUXINE AND
GUARDINA IN A
GLUCOSE
CONCENTRATE.

IF I HADN'T HAD
THEM LAST SEVEN
PINTS O'
GUINNESS...

RAHNE.

GET YOURSELF
STERILIZED AN'
GIVE ME A HAND
HERE.



COLOSSUS
ISN'T GOING THE
DIET DODGY, BUT I'LL
NEED HELP PULLING
WISDOM'S BACKSIDE
OUTRE THE DEVIL'S
ARMPIT...



BUT WE
CAN'T JUST
LEAVE COLOSSUS
LIKE THAT, LADY
MOIRA...



WE WON'T. THE
AUTOMATED MEDICAL
SYSTEM WILL SEE
TO HIM.

AFTER
THE LAST TIME
HE WAS HERE, I
DEVELOPED SOME
NEW WAYS THE
TREAT HIM IN HIS
STEEL FORM.



THERE,
THE DIFFUSER
GUNS ARE
MOVING
IN --



-- RENDERING
HIS STEEL
MALLEABLE.



NOW IT'S
JUST A QUESTION
O' MOVING TH'
SOFT STEEL
AROUND --

-- AND
RECONSTRUCTING
THE SHAPE OF HIS
SPINE.



WHEN HE TRANSFORMS TO
HUMAN AGAIN, HIS SPINE WILL
TRANSFORM TO NORMAL
WITH HIM.

IT'S WISDOM WHO'S
THE PROBLEM, RAINE.
ASK THE COMPUTER
FOR POSSIBLE ENTRY
PLANS ON HIS
CHEST AND
HEAD.

IF I
CAN'T STEM HIS
CRANIAL BLEEDING
AND REINFLATE
THAT LUNG...

... HE'S
DEAD.

TIME PASSES. PIOTR
NIKOLEVITCH STRUGGLES
UP FROM THE BLACKNESS.

YOU'RE A
BLASTED
FOOL.

I WANT YE TO KNOW, PETER
RASPUTIN THAT THE MAN YE'VE
NEVER MET AND DECIDED TO
PUNCH OUT IN SOME JEALOUS
FIT, IS POSSIBLY GOING
TO DIE IN THE NEXT
HOUR.

DON'T
TRY TAE GET
UP --

YOU'VE
GOT A WEE
BIT OF SPINAL
TRAUMA, BUT
IT'LL BE GONE
IN AN HOUR
OR TWO.

YUIR
STEEL ABSORBED
AND DEFERRED ALMOST
ALL OF THE HEAT --
THOUGH IF PETE HADN'T
PASSED OUT, AND KEPT
THE BLADE IN, THERE FOR
ANOTHER HALF A MINUTE,
YOU'D BE CRIPPLED
FOR LIFE.

BUT AT
LEAST
YOU'DVE
BEEN
ALIVE.

LET ME MAKE
THINGS CLEAR
HERE.

YOU'RE
IN A HOLDING
CELL, PETER.
YOU'RE WEARING
AN INHIBITOR
COLLAR.

NOW EXCUSE
ME WHILE I GO
FIX YOUR
MISTAKE.



SHE
IS GONE?
SEHE
GUT.

KURT?

KURT,
MY FRIEND,
IT IS GOOD
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN.

THERE
HAS BEEN A
MISTAKE.

I THOUGHT
I SAW MY KATYA
KISSING SOME
SICKLY-LOOKING
MAN IN A SUIT,
A MAN WHO
SMOKES...

NO
MISTAKE.

THAT WAS
PETER WISDOM,
PREVIOUSLY OF A
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE
OUTFIT CALLED
BLACK AIR.

JUST
TONIGHT, WE
ALLOWED HIM TO
JOIN EXCALIBUR
FULL-TIME.

JUST
TONIGHT, HE
AND KITT^Y TOLD
US OF THEIR
FEELINGS FOR
EACH OTHER.

NO,
NO --

-- MY
KATYA LOVES
ME, SHE HAS
WAITED FOR
ME --

WHEN
I LEFT MUIR
FOR AVALON,
SHE KISSED
ME --



YOU
ARE A
CHILD.



WHAT?

KURT,
MY FRIEND,
SURELY YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND...

FRIEND? I FEEL LIKE I
BARELY KNOW YOU,
RIGHT NOW.

YOUR
ABERRANT BEHAVIOR
OF SOME TIME BACK THAT
MOIRA AND THE PROFESSOR
IDENTIFIED AS **BRAIN DAMAGE**.
I BEGIN TO ATTRIBUTE TO
A BASIC CHILDISHNESS
IN YOU.

PERHAPS
YOUR SOJURN
IN **AVARON** WAS NOT
SO MUCH A NEED TO
CONVERT MAGNETO'S
PEOPLE, AS AN
ESCAPE FROM YOUR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
ACCOUNTABILITIES
ON EARTH.

HOW CAN YOU
SAY THAT?! I GAVE
UP EVERYTHING TO GO
TO **AVARON**, TO TRY
AND CIRCUMVENT
FURTHER
VIOLENCE --

HOW MUCH
OF THIS IS DUE
TO THE FACT YOU
LOST YOUR
FAMILY?

NONE
OF IT! I
HAVE TAKEN
THIS THING
ON MYSELF,
AND...



YOU ARE LYING
TO ME, PETER.
WE JOINED THE
X-MEN TOGETHER
SO MANY
YEARS
AGO...

...DID YOU
THINK YOU
COULD KEEP
THE TRUTH
FROM ME?



ALLOW ME
TO MAKE A FEW
SUPPOSITIONS.

YOU
PERHAPS FEEL
GUILT OVER THE
WAY YOU BEHAVED
DURING YOUR...
ILLNESS.

YOU
HAVE A GREAT
DEAL OF EMOTION, ALL
MIXED UP AND LOCKED
UP AND UNDERLIT WITH
OVER THE LOSS OF
YOUR SISTER, YOUR
ENTIRE FAMILY...

...YOU HAVE
STAGGERED THROUGH
ONE STRESSFUL SITUATION
AFTER ANOTHER, AND, AT
THE END OF IT ALL, YOU
WANTED COMFORT, YOU
WANTED YOUR OWN,
OLD LIFE BACK.

HALF-BLIND
WITH PAIN AND
FEAR AND STRESS
AND EXHAUSTION, YOU
MADE YOUR WAY HERE --
PROJECTING ALL OF
THAT WANT ONTO
KITTY.



AND
WHEN I SAW
KITTY WITH... THAT
MAN, I
SNAPPED.

DR.

I
THINK YOU
ARE RIGHT,
MY
FRIEND.



YOU NEED
TO REST. YOU NEED
TO REGAIN SOME
CONTROL OVER
YOUR EMOTIONS,
TOO.

I THINK
IT'D BE POLITIC
IF YOU REMAIN
HERE IN THIS
CELL FOR A FEW
HOURS LONGER...



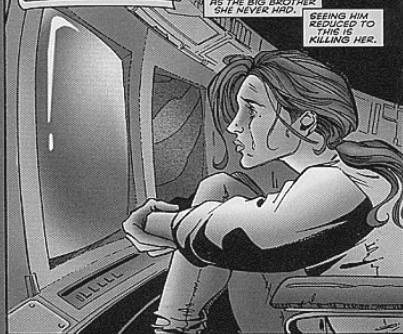
WHAT
SHALL HAPPEN
TO ME NOW,
KURTZ?



IN THE COMMUNICATIONS
SUITE, RAHNE SINCLAIR
WATCHES THE FEED FROM
THE HIDDEN CAMERA IN
RASPUTIN'S CELL.

SHE'S KNOWN HIM
A LONG TIME, AND
HAS ALWAYS
LOOKED UP TO HIM
AS THE BIG BROTHER
SHE NEVER HAD.

SEEING HIM
REDUCED TO
THIS IS
KILLING HER.



I CANNOT PREVENT
THE OTHERS FROM TALKING
ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. IT
WILL GET BACK TO THE
PROFESSOR,
EVENTUALLY.

LOGAN
WILL PROBABLY
TAKE TO GRABING
ON A PHOTO
OF YOU FOR A
FEW DAYS.



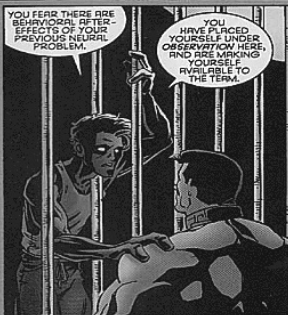


I HAD NOT
THOUGHT OF
THAT...
THE
PROFESSOR,
ORORO, SCOTT --
WHAT WILL THEY
THINK?

IN
AMERICA,
MEIN FREUND,
THEY HAVE PEOPLE
CALLED "SPIN
DOCTORS." COME TO
THINK OF IT, THEY
PROBABLY HAVE
THEM IN RUSSIA
NOW, TOO.



I
THINK IT
BEST TO HAVE
YOU REMAIN
WITH THE
TEAM.

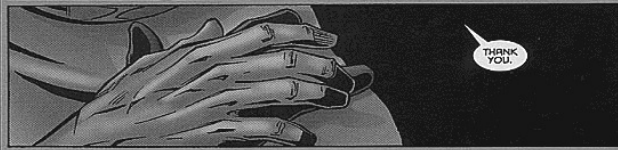


YOU FEAR THERE ARE
BEHAVIORAL AFTER-
EFFECTS OF YOUR
PREVIOUS NEURAL
PROBLEM.

YOU
HAVE PLACED
YOURSELF UNDER
OBSERVATION HERE,
AND ARE MAKING
YOURSELF
AVAILABLE TO
THE TEAM.



I
THINK THAT
PUTS AN
ACCEPTABLE
SPIN ON
THINGS.



THANK
YOU.

HIS FRIEND LEAVES, AND PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH WONDERS AT THE IMMENSE CONFIDENCE OF THE MAN.

NO WONDER NIGHTCRAWLER IS A TEAM LEADER, WHILE --

PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH RASPUTIN.

Oh...

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH, THE MAN WHOSE INSIDES YOU PULPED IS GOING TO LIVE, SOMEBOW.

MOIRA SAYS HE'LL SPEND A WHILE IN A WHEEL-CHAIR...

SHE SAYS ONE MORE BLOW FROM YOU WOULD HAVE MURDERED HIM.

I OUGHT TO KICK YOUR BRAINS OUT.

HE TRIES TO STAND, TRIES TO TALK, BUT HIS LEGS AND LIPS JUST WON'T DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD...

KATYAP

MY KATYAP WHY DID YOU --





I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH A LOT,
PETER. WE'VE HAD
REPORTS FROM
WESTCHESTER...

KURT THINKS IT ALL
GOT TOO MUCH FOR
YOU, YOU LOST
CONTROL.

AND
I GUESS
I CAN SEE
THAT.



I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE WHAT YOU
DID -- BUT I CAN
UNDERSTAND IT.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN
ROUGH, PETER, BUT
YOU HAVE TO COME
BACK TO YOURSELF.
GET A GRIP, OKAY?

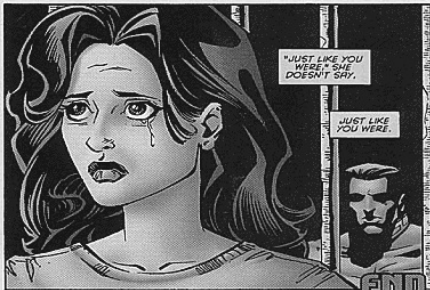
THIS
PETER
WISDOM...

AN
EX-SPY,
KURT HAS
SAID...



IS HE...
GOOD
TO YOU,
KATYA?

YEAH.



"JUST LIKE YOU
WERE," SHE
DOESN'T SAY.

JUST LIKE
YOU WERE.

END